

advancing the economic opportunities of Americans. That is what is within this bill in many, many instances, beyond where the NASA centers are located.

I want to thank, again, the chairman and the ranking member for working together and having the focus of this bill really be on science and all that we can produce through scientific research.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I will just close by saying that a purpose for having an authorization is a portion of oversight. And I think Mr. FRANK really has been beneficial for us in making us justify ourselves, making us have part of this oversight. It is a better bill, a healthier bill for that. I think it can live up to the scrutiny.

With that, I would like to yield to my friend from Missouri for some remarks.

Mr. SKELTON. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mark Twain once said: The more you explain it to me, the more I don't understand it.

I want to know where the Defense bill is; 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, we ended our conference. By 5 o'clock, we filed the necessary signatures, both the Senate and the House, and yet the Defense bill is not even on any calendar whatsoever. This is outrageous.

I understand the Republican leadership wishes to put some extraneous matter onto the bill. But the proper procedure was followed. It was a torturous, difficult, but a fair ending, and we signed the report. Yet, the Defense bill is not there, being held up for some extraneous misunderstanding, reason. I just don't understand it.

I want that Defense bill on the floor. The United States of America wants it on the floor. We have young men and young women in uniform all over this world, Afghanistan, Iraq, and yet we can't get the bill here that authorizes a pay raise, TRICARE for reservists, all the ammunition that they need, the medical care that we need, the policies set forth in the detainee language, all of this that has been worked out. Yet we don't have the bill. I don't understand it.

Please explain it to us and to the American people: Where in the world is the Defense bill, the authorization bill?

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, as a House Republican who, I believe my fiscal conservative ratings are typically among the top ten most conservative in the House; I have no NASA facilities in my district; and I am a passionate advocate for NASA, a strong supporter of this legislation, because I recognize the importance of investing in our Nation's future through investments and the scientific and technological innovations that only NASA and the space program have been able to produce for us. From the Blackberry on our belts, the microcomputers, the

computer chips on our office desks, to satellite technology and cell phone technology to medical technology, NASA has touched every one of our lives. I applaud the chairman and the leadership for bringing this bill to the floor, and it is very important that we get behind President Bush's vision, because only by investing in NASA and strengthening our investment in scientific and medical research will we maintain America's leadership role in the world.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I again urge passage of this bill and yield the remainder of my time to my friend from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, just quickly, to follow up what Mr. SKELTON has talked about, the Defense authorization bill was signed, and here is what I read in CQ: "House Armed Services Chairman Duncan Hunter confirmed through a spokesman that he inserted the provision," this is totally extraneous, apparently, if that happened after the signatures, "at the behest of House leadership."

And this is a quote: "'Hunter reserves the right to support the leadership team,' said Harald Stavenas, his spokesman."

Get the authorization bill on the floor.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the staff who have worked so diligently on this bill all year and who have been really on constant alert since the loss of the space shuttle *Columbia*. That staff includes David Goldston, John Mimikakis, Bill Adkins, Roselee Roberts, Tom Hammond, Ken Monroe, Johannes Loschnigg, Shep Bryan, Ed Feddeman, Christy Carles, as well as the minority staff, Chuck Atkins and Dick Obermann. They have been a team working together in common cause.

I would also be remiss if I did not thank Administrator Griffin and his staff, particularly Brian Chase, who are always available and who were willing to work to reach a compromise. And might I say how refreshing it has been to be so candid as Administrator Griffin has been. Administrator Griffin continues to do a superb job, and we hope this bill will help him do that job, even though, like all of us, he would not have written each provision the way we did. But in the final analysis, we have got a good bill that is worthy of the support of this House. We have got a good bill that is good for America because of the vitality it brings to the economy, and we have got a good bill because Democrats and Republicans worked it out together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the Senate bill, S. 1281.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the conference report was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 863. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the bestowal of the Nobel Peace Prize on President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes.

S. 959. An act to establish the Star-Spanned Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 1310. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation to increase the diameter of a natural gas pipeline located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, to allow certain commercial vehicles to continue to use Route 209 within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and to extend the termination date of the National Park System Advisory Board to January 1, 2007.

S. 1312. An act to amend a provision relating to employees of the United States assigned to, or employed by, an Indian tribe, and for other purposes.

S. 1892. An act to amend Public Law 107-153 to modify a certain date.

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF S. 1281, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 324) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1281, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 324

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill (S. 1281) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for science, aeronautics, exploration, exploration capabilities, and the Inspector General, and for other purposes, for fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, the Secretary of the Senate shall correct the title so as to read: "An Act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration."

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE REVISION ACT OF 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the

Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate bill (S. 467) to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment to House amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment to the text of the bill, insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM EXTENSION.—Section 108(a) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2336) is amended by striking "2005" and inserting "2007".

(b) MANDATORY AVAILABILITY.—Section 103(c) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2327) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by striking "AVAILABILITY.—" and all that follows through "each entity" and inserting "AVAILABILITY.—During each Program Year, each entity"; and

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and moving the margins 2 ems to the left.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINED TERMS.

(a) PROGRAM YEARS.—Section 102(11) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2326) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(E) PROGRAM YEAR 4.—The term 'Program Year 4' means the period beginning on January 1, 2006 and ending on December 31, 2006.

"(F) PROGRAM YEAR 5.—The term 'Program Year 5' means the period beginning on January 1, 2007 and ending on December 31, 2007."

(b) EXCLUSIONS FROM COVERED LINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(12)(B) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2326) is amended—

(A) in clause (vi), by striking "or" at the end;

(B) in clause (vii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(viii) commercial automobile insurance;

"(ix) burglary and theft insurance;

"(x) surety insurance;

"(xi) professional liability insurance; or

"(xii) farm owners multiple peril insurance."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 102(12)(A) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2326) is amended by striking "surety insurance" and inserting "directors and officers liability insurance".

(c) INSURER DEDUCTIBLES.—Section 102(7) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2325) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (G);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (D), the following:

"(E) for Program Year 4, the value of an insurer's direct earned premiums over the calendar year immediately preceding Program Year 4, multiplied by 17.5 percent;

"(F) for Program Year 5, the value of an insurer's direct earned premiums over the calendar year immediately preceding Program Year 5, multiplied by 20 percent; and"; and

(4) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by striking "through (D)" and all that follows through "Year 3" and inserting the following: "through (F), for the Transition Period or any Program Year".

SEC. 4. INSURED LOSS SHARED COMPENSATION.

Section 103(e) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2328) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting "through Program Year 4" before "shall be equal"; and

(B) by inserting "and during Program Year 5 shall be equal to 85 percent," after "90 percent"; and

(2) in each of paragraphs (2) and (3), by striking "Program Year 2 or Program Year 3" each place that term appears and inserting "any of Program Years 2 through 5".

SEC. 5. AGGREGATE RETENTION AMOUNTS AND RECOUPMENT OF FEDERAL SHARE.

(a) AGGREGATE RETENTION AMOUNTS.—Section 103(e)(6) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2329) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) for Program Year 4, the lesser of—

"(i) \$25,000,000,000; and

"(ii) the aggregate amount, for all insurers, of insured losses during such Program Year; and

"(E) for Program Year 5, the lesser of—

"(i) \$27,500,000,000; and

"(ii) the aggregate amount, for all insurers, of insured losses during such Program Year."

(b) RECOUPMENT OF FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 103(e)(7) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2329) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking " (B), and (C)" and inserting "through (E)"; and

(2) in each of subparagraphs (B) and (C), by striking "subparagraph (A), (B), or (C)" each place that term appears and inserting "any of subparagraphs (A) through (E)".

SEC. 6. PROGRAM TRIGGER.

Section 103(e)(1) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. note, 116 Stat. 2328) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) PROGRAM TRIGGER.—In the case of a certified act of terrorism occurring after March 31, 2006, no compensation shall be paid by the Secretary under subsection (a), unless the aggregate industry insured losses resulting from such certified act of terrorism exceed—

"(i) \$50,000,000, with respect to such insured losses occurring in Program Year 4; or

"(ii) \$100,000,000, with respect to such insured losses occurring in Program Year 5."

SEC. 7. LITIGATION MANAGEMENT.

Section 107(a) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2335) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(6) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—Procedures and requirements established by the Secretary under section 50.82 of part 50 of title 31 of the Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of issuance of that section in final form) shall apply to any cause of action described in paragraph (1) of this subsection."

SEC. 8. ANALYSIS AND REPORT ON TERRORISM RISK COVERAGE CONDITIONS AND SOLUTIONS.

Section 108 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note; 116 Stat. 2336) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) ANALYSIS OF MARKET CONDITIONS FOR TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The President's Working Group on Financial Markets, in consultation with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, representatives of the insurance industry, representatives of the securities industry, and representatives of policy holders, shall perform an analysis regarding the long-term availability and affordability of insurance for terrorism risk, including—

"(A) group life coverage; and

"(B) coverage for chemical, nuclear, biological, and radiological events.

"(2) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2006, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets shall submit a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives on its findings pursuant to the analysis conducted under subsection (a)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on the morning of September 11, 2001, this Nation suffered a series of brutal terrorist attacks. Al Qaeda's terrorists murdered thousands of innocent Americans, caused billions of dollars in damage and placed our financial markets in jeopardy. While the marketplace was ultimately able to survive the more than \$30 billion loss, insurance reserves were demolished and solvency was put at risk. Insurers could not predict when another terrorist attack would take place or how damaging the next attack could be and were forced to begin to exclude terrorism coverage from commercial policies, leaving policyholders bare. The resulting lack of terrorism insurance put at risk numerous development projects and threatened our Nation's economy.

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To respond to this crisis, the House Financial Services Committee immediately created the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, or TRIA. A year later, the Senate finally acted and the President signed TRIA into law.

TRIA has provided a Federal backstop protecting policyholders against future catastrophic terrorist attacks. TRIA has been a resounding success in ensuring the availability of terrorism coverage for commercial policyholders.

TRIA is set to expire at the end of the year. Unfortunately, the risks from terrorism remain acute and the private markets cannot function without an appropriate government backstop. The legislation before us today, S. 467, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act, temporarily extends the terrorism risk backstop for 2 years, while increasing participation of the private sector.

As in our committee legislation, this bill raises the program trigger from \$5 million to \$50 million in the first year of the extension and then to \$100 million for the second year, ensuring that

Federal participation will only happen for large-scale attacks.

It also increases the insurer deductibles by a reasonable amount each year and significantly increases the taxpayer payback to better protect consumers.

Mr. Speaker, it is with some frustration and sadness when I say that Members of Congress and the administration who believe that the risk of terrorism will disappear in 2 years are fooling themselves. It is my firm belief that a TRIA extension should have included some actual reforms to reinvigorate the private sector and replace our Federal program with a permanent private sector solution.

While this legislation is bereft of any reforms to build long-term protections for commercial policyholders, I am confident Congress will be forced to return to this issue before 2 years have expired. It is a sad commentary on our ability to look forward and to be creative, which I think the House legislation clearly did. It is unfortunate that our brethren in the other body saw fit to take such a narrow attitude.

I hope that the Presidential working group that is created by this legislation will examine the need to create dedicated, long-term terrorism reserves and private pooling and risk-sharing facilities to permanently protect our Nation from the economic threat of terrorism.

If such forward thinking and planning is not done as contemplated in our bill, the industry will be back at the Federal trough seeking yet another extension of this program; and make no mistake about it, whatever it is, Congress will respond.

We should give special recognition to the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER), for introducing legislation developing a long-term private sector reform to strengthen the private-public sector partnership, to improve terrorism insurance for consumers.

I also applaud my colleagues Mrs. KELLY, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. PRYCE, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. RENZI, and Mr. FERGUSON for their help and leadership, as well as Ranking Member FRANK, Mr. KANJORSKI, and Mr. CAPUANO for their bipartisan cooperation and commitment to protecting our Nation.

Their leadership is proof that the House can work together to get things done for America. Too bad we did not have better cooperation from the other side. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this important and necessary legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in expressing a little disappointment in the failure of the other body to rise to the occasion.

A considerably better piece of legislation was drafted and passed here in

the House and sent over to the other body, only to get to this 11th hour and get back some legislation that is less than a good product.

It does several things; and I dare say, I have to rise to support it because it is the only thing flying in town tonight. And since terrorism reinsurance will expire in 2 weeks to an incredible disadvantage of American business and American jobs, I think we have no alternative but to support this piece of legislation tonight.

What it does not do, however, is it does not pass on and consider legislation taking care of nuclear, chemical, biological, radioactive terrorism incidents. What it does not include is allowing for a commission that would sit down and analyze and develop a mechanism so that we can pass the responsibility for the public back to the private sector in a smart and reasonable way.

And it does not extend it nearly for long enough or provide for the continuation of this type of coverage into the future, because as the chairman well said, 2 years is entirely too short. The only thing we are certain of is we will be back in this Chamber within the 2 years to do something over again, having lost 2 years of work product and probably again 2 years of involvement.

Finally, the last thing the bill does not include today that is a great disappointment to me is comprehensive health coverage insurance. It seems that we are willing to insure the buildings, but not the people. Group life was included in the House side of the bill, but has fallen out as the bill has come back from the Senate.

I guess the last sport I would complain about with the Senate is, if I recall, several days ago or maybe a week has gone by, we had the appointment of a conference committee in the House. And our coach was lined up and ready to go. We all went out and bought uniforms and prepared to do battle, and somebody forget to give the referee a whistle. As I understand, the conference never started or ended. This is merely a product sent over as a last-ditch effort, take it or leave it. That is what we are faced with.

But with all of that said, I think it is another example that, at least here on the House side, the Financial Services Committee has had and has displayed a great deal of capacity to work together in trying times.

I wanted to thank and recognize all the folks on the Republican side of the aisle that were so bipartisan in working on this. And I think we were of common mind to get it done, and we got a good product done.

On my side of the aisle, many of the participants in this legislation will have an opportunity to speak, and they can critique the legislation and their own role as they do speak.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time yielded by the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on legislation that continues the commitment Congress made in 2001 to safeguard our Nation's economy in the event of another catastrophic terrorist attack. Chairman OXLEY and Chairman BAKER and their staffs deserve enormous credit for the hard work throughout this process, because just last week the House passed a bill which presented a balanced and very responsible approach to continuing the TRIA program.

It provided for the availability of terrorism insurance, encouraged the development of private capital, and required full mandatory taxpayer reimbursement of Federal assistance granted to the insurance industry.

While the House version included more forward-looking market-based provisions than the final bill that we have before us today, passage of this legislation nonetheless remains necessary.

The potential for another terrorist attack is frightening enough, but hamstringing our Nation's ability to recover finally is unthinkable and irresponsible. Without action today, our economy would suffer. This bill is about more than our insurance industry. Businesses large and small depend upon the availability of this insurance.

We must provide certainty to our manufacturers, our builders, our bankers, retailers, Realtors, developers and others; and we are dedicated to securing our country against the physical and economic consequences of another terrorist attack.

I appreciate so much Chairmen Oxley and Baker's hard work on this issue, Congressman KANJORSKI as well. Congress must continue to work to find a permanent solution enabling the private market to better provide terrorism insurance, and I am sure we will continue to seek that solution.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hard work and the candor of the chairman of the committee. It really is disappointing. We did a good bipartisan effort here, put together a bill. There were some questions about it. It was a comprehensive bill and attacked a number of the issues.

What happened in the Senate was a travesty of the legislative process and a refusal finally by the chairman frankly of the committee to engage us at all. We are left with this Hobson's choice, in the literal sense, that is, no choice at all, that is, we have to pass this bill or else this program expires.

Unfortunately, a number of things were left out. We will hear from the gentlewoman from Florida about her important provision protecting people against unfair discrimination in their travel plans. One of the things that we

will also hear is from the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL). He worked hard with the families of 9/11.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit for the RECORD a packet of correspondence to and from the families. They wanted a commission to study this issue as part of this. They wanted representation. And the families of 9/11, after all, are the people out of whom this whole terrorism response grew, the victimization of their loved ones.

They asked for a commission. We in the House worked with them on a bipartisan basis. We have that commission. The Senate simply blatantly ignored them. And they tried. They appealed to the Senate and they appealed to the White House and they were turned away.

Group life is gone. This is kind of like, remember the old neutron bomb? It killed people and left the buildings standing. We have neutron terrorism insurance. It protects the buildings, but it ignores the people. It is both a travesty of the legislative process, what the Senate has done; and I have to say this, despite the fact that we got good bipartisan corporation here, and there were differences, we had differences where ideology got into play, but unfortunately there is a right wing ideological fundamentalism so entrenched in this Capitol in various places that that is why we do not have the kind of terrorism risk insurance bill we ought to have.

I believe in the market. I believe in the market's function, but we have people who believe in the market when it does not exist. And that is the case in terrorism insurance.

FAMILIES OF SEPTEMBER 11, INC.,

New York, NY, November 3, 2005.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,

Chair and Co-Sponsor of the House TRIA Bill, House of Representatives, Committee on Financial Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD BAKER,

Co-Sponsor of the House TRIA Bill, House of Representatives, Committee on Financial Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. BARNEY FRANK

Ranking Democrat, House of Representatives, Committee on Financial Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES OXLEY, FRANK and BAKER: The undersigned is Chairman of the Board of Families of September 11, Inc. (FOS11). FOS11 is a nonprofit organization founded in October 2001 by families of those who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks. The FOS11 mission is to raise awareness about the effects of terrorism and public trauma and to champion domestic and international policies that prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist acts. Our members (over 2,000) reside in 48 states and 20 countries.

Soon after its founding FOS11 began analyzing and responding to issues raised by the Air Transportation Safety and System Security Act (the Act), of which the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund of 2001 (the Fund) forms a part, and subsequent legislation. In June of this year FOS11 submitted to the Justice Department its Final Report on the Fund, an Executive Summary of which was placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In

that report FOS11 expresses deep concern about the wide swath of immunity granted by the Act and subsequent legislation to public and private entities for the consequences of the September 11 attacks. We observe that the deterrent goals of our American compensation system—imposing the cost of harmful acts on those who could and should have, but did not, prevent them—were not achieved. Nor could they have been. The reason. The insurance industry had not (understandably) appreciated and analyzed the terrorist exploitable vulnerabilities of its insureds and the magnitude of the exposures and built the reserves and provided the limits necessary to pay the losses that resulted.

The FOS11 Final Report on the Fund concludes by urging Congress to:

a. use the perspectives of time and experience in implementation of the Victim Compensation Fund to consider carefully issues it was forced to address hastily in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

b. assess how well the rules adopted in 2002 to implement the legislation met Congressional intent;

c. consider the incentives and disincentives to reducing the risks of terrorist attacks implicit in the legislation; and

d. fashion legislation that will reduce those risks and ensure that victims of future terrorist attacks and their families are made whole.

Although FOS11 believes that the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) is not the long term solution to deterring and, if deterrence fails, paying for future terrorist losses, it does believe that it is a necessary bridge to comprehensive forward looking legislation that will allow the insurance industry to play the vital role of providing remedies to the casualties of future terrorist attacks and, through risk assessments and premium allocations, a safer America.

FOS11 joins the Defense Research Institute in its support of legislation that (1) extends TRIA until December 31, 2007, to ensure an orderly transition to a long term solution to the terrorism risk insurance questions and (2) provides for a Presidential Working Group or Congressional Commission to develop a viable and solvent program to succeed TRIA.

The unique perspective of FOS11 equips it well to participate in the creation of solutions to the complex accountability, responsibility, remedies and related prevention issues raised by the continuing threat of terrorist acts and the vital role insurance can (must) play in these solutions. We ask that FOS11 be a participant in this crucial debate.

Very truly yours,

DONALD W. GOODRICH,

Chairman of the Board.

FAMILIES OF SEPTEMBER 11, INC.,

New York, NY, December 12, 2005.

Re Preservation of the Commission approach in the Compromise Terrorism Risk Insurance Act that reconciles S. 467 and H.R. 4314.

Senator PAUL S. SARBANES,

Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: Last week, Ron Robinson, Chair of the Defense Research Institute's TRIA Subcommittee and I met with most of the Senior Staff for Senators Shelby, Bennett, Dodd, and Kennedy and Representatives Oxley, Baker, Shays, Crowley, Israel and Maloney and of the Senate Banking and House Financial Services Committees to listen and to debate the captioned matter.

Families of September 11 remains fully committed to a reconciliation of these two

bills in favor of the mandate, membership and direct broad stakeholder participation in the House Commission approach. We also support adding each of the members of the Presidential Working Group to this Commission and a representative from Homeland Security, an actuary and a risk manager/moderator.

Unless Congress takes a leadership role by providing this neutral forum for all stakeholders to openly and "face to face" debate the complex and interdependent issues necessary for the insurance industry to play its traditional role, we will be no further along in two years than we are now. Congress's leadership is far more important than its dollars on this issue. We need to prepare, so that government will not be obliged to step in again, as it did following September 11, 2001. Failure to provide such a forum will increase the risk of future terrorist attacks and result in an unplanned and disproportionate government response at taxpayer expense.

Moreover, achieving viable, solvent and long term terrorism insurance that is driven by the private sector, but appropriately supported by government, is not a matter of resolving unilaterally one or a few simple "insurance" questions. The issues are many and touch every social, economic, and political policy in our nation. Congress can use this Commission to lead the private sector stakeholders to a day when they will find it in their economic interests to reduce the risk of the next terrorist attack (sadly, there will be one) and have the resources, in the form of insurance, to respond to the losses. The compromise we support is a critical opportunity for loss mitigation and remediation at all levels of our society.

I urge you and your staff to work with your counterparts in the House to reach the Commission compromise Ron and I support. He and I have pledged our groups and ourselves to work as hard with the Commission to achieve this goal over the next year as we have with Congress to date on the terrorism insurability/risk transfer debate.

Very truly yours,

DONALD W. GOODRICH,

President

FAMILIES OF SEPTEMBER 11, INC.,

New York, NY, December 14, 2005.

Re Preservation of the Commission Approach in the Compromise Terrorism Risk Insurance Act That Reconciles S. 467 and HR 4314.

DEAR MR. HUBBARD: The undersigned is President of Families of September 11, Inc. (FOS11). FOS11 is a nonprofit organization founded in October 2001 by families of those who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks. The FOS11 mission is to raise awareness about the effects of terrorism and public trauma and to champion domestic and international policies that prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist acts. Our members (over 2,000) reside in 48 states and 20 countries. Solvent and viable terrorism insurance is a weapon against terrorism and the matter in caption is vital to this goal.

Although FOS11 believes that the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) is not the long term solution to deterring and, if deterrence fails, paying for future terrorist losses, it does believe that it is a necessary bridge to comprehensive forward looking legislation that will allow the insurance industry to play the vital role of providing remedies to the casualties of future terrorist attacks and, through risk assessments and premium allocations, a safer America.

FOS11 takes no position on the insurance specific differences between the TRIA extension bills from the House and Senate now in informal conference, but it is fully committed to a reconciliation of those bills in

favor of the mandate, membership and direct broad stakeholder participation in the House Commission approach. We also support adding each of the members of the Presidential Working Group contemplated by the Senate bill to this Commission and a representative from Homeland Security, an actuary and a risk manager/modeler.

Unless the White House takes a leadership role by supporting this neutral forum for all stakeholders to openly and “face to face” debate the complex and interdependent issues necessary for the insurance industry to play its traditional role, we will be no further along in two years than we are now. Leadership is far more important than dollars on this issue. We need to prepare, so that government will not be obliged to step in again, as it did following September 11, 2001. Failure to provide such a forum will increase the risk of future terrorist attacks and result in an unplanned and disproportionate government response at taxpayer expense.

Moreover, achieving viable, solvent and long term terrorism insurance that is driven by the private sector, but supported by sound government policies, is not a matter of resolving unilaterally one or a few simple “insurance” questions. The issues are many and touch every social, economic, and political policy in our nation. These policy issues need open and rigorous debate by a broad spectrum of perspectives in order that the private sector stakeholders will come to a day when they will find it in their economic interests to reduce the risk of the next terrorist attack (sadly, there will be one) and have the resources, in the form of insurance, to respond to the losses. The compromise we support is a critical opportunity to achieve loss mitigation and remediation at all levels of our society.

Solutions to the complex accountability, responsibility, remedies and related prevention issues raised by the continuing threat of terrorist acts and the vital role insurance can (must) play in these solutions are essential to the war on terrorism. I urge you and your staff to work with your counterparts in the House and Senate to reach the Commission compromise FOS11 supports. Only with the cross debate and transparency this type commission assures can full participation by the private sector in the war on terrorism here on our soil be achieved.

Very truly yours,

DONALD W. GOODRICH,
President.

Attachment: Letter from Representative Barney Frank dated December 9, 2005.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2005.

DON GOODRICH,
*Chairman of the Board,
Families of September 11.*
RONALD R. ROBINSON,
*Chair, TRIA Subcommittee,
Defense Research Institute.*

DEAR MR. GOODRICH AND MR. ROBINSON: I thank you for your support for the extension of the Terrorist Risk Insurance Act and for your constructive suggestion to not only have a Commission with broad membership, but also to include a representative of the victims of terrorism on the Commission. As you are no doubt aware, on December 7, 2005 the House passed legislation that includes those provisions by a vote of 371 to 49 and sent it to the Senate with a request for a conference.

We only have about 10 or 12 days to work out the differences between the two bills, and the Administration has expressed its opposition to the House-passed bill and will likely try to get the Senate to oppose compromising with the House. We will work hard

to preserve the Commission and the inclusion of a victims' representative on it. I urge you to continue your efforts in support of the House provision, and I will work with you to be as persuasive with the Senate as you were with the House.

BARNEY FRANK.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), who has been one of the leaders on very important issues and chairs the oversight subcommittee.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, although I do so with a great deal of disappointment.

This bill does reauthorize TRIA for the next 2 years, and failure to reauthorize the program would lead to gaps in insurance coverage that could kill economic growth and recovery nationwide. Unfortunately, this bill contains none of the improvements to the TRIA program that the House passed earlier. The bill before us today lacks group life coverage. It lacks coverage for domestic terrorism. It lacks a commission to study the availability of terrorism insurance for the World Trade Center, and other sites after this current extension ends.

The other body's refusal to negotiate with this House on ways to make TRIA work better for the taxpayers, policy holders, and regulators is beyond seriously disappointing. As Chairman OXLEY said, and you have heard from other Members, this legislation simply kicks the can down the road. It is an opportunity that has been lost.

I want to thank Chairman OXLEY and Chairman BAKER for their hard work. I want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We have worked together to try to create a very strong bill that would help the United States of America economically.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to immediately working with them on a better, stronger reauthorization of the program before it expires again in 2009.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) for 3 minutes.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I did not become involved in the issue of TRIA because of my seat on the House Financial Services Committee. I became involved in it because my district is located approximately 50 miles from Ground Zero, because I represent over 100 families whose lives and livelihood were completely upended as a result of the attacks on our Nation on 9/11.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to support this extension, but I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in supporting it with some measure of disappointment. Our committee, under bipartisan leadership, reported a strong, comprehensive TRIA extension that included group life and covered domestic terrorism, had a public-private commission to ensure long-term alternatives to TRIA. None of that was included in the final product that we are going to vote on today.

I have two major concerns that I will share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker.

One is the public-private commission on long-term solutions. The 9/11 families very much wanted to participate in a commission that would develop new policies, new alternatives to TRIA. Not only was their voice left out of this bill, but the commission itself was left out of this bill.

Instead, we are going to have a bureaucratic report produced by a Presidential working group. I am sure it will be a good-faith effort, but surely those families deserve to be heard.

□ 1845

Surely those families have a tragic expertise in how lives can be destroyed and how livelihoods can be lost. And I am very disappointed that they have been excluded, that their voices have been silenced.

And the second concern that I have, Mr. Speaker, is that group life was not included in this product despite the best efforts on both sides of the aisle. It seems to me common sense and certainly compassion that if we are going to insure bricks and steel and glass and mortar, then surely we should insure the lives of people who work inside the bricks and the steel and the glass and the mortar, that surely their lives are just as valuable as property. So it is with a measure of profound disappointment that group life was excluded from this final product.

This is, in fact, an imperfect bill, and certainly it is drastically less perfect than the language that was reported on a bipartisan basis from the House Financial Services Committee. But we ought not let an imperfect bill stop an adequate bill. And so because this is a good start and because we do have an opportunity to still get this right, I will support this extension and urge all of our colleagues to continue to work together to pass something that makes the most sense for our Nation and its economy.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his leadership on this extremely important bill.

And I rise in strong support of the extension of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act for an additional 2 years.

The creation of antiterrorism insurance after 9/11 stabilized our Nation's economic footing, but it is set to expire at the end of this year. Businesses in my district with insurance policies that have expired since this September have told me that they cannot find insurance coverage in this country anywhere. They have been forced to look in England. Homeland security includes economic security, and after 9/11, of all the acts of this body, the most important was the antiterrorism insurance. It helped us start to rebuild and to build our economic foundation in New York and across this country.

That is why it is so very important that we pass this extension. Clearly, the terrorist threat remains, and TRIA is still an economic necessity.

I am disappointed that the good work of the Financial Services Committee to create a stronger bill that would help the private sector take on the problem of terrorism insurance has been set aside in favor of a more limited bill that simply kicks the can down the road, as Chairman OXLEY so correctly put it and as Ranking Member FRANK and Mr. KANJORSKI have highlighted. The bill before us would be better were it to extend to group life, domestic terrorism and if it covered nuclear, biological, chemical or radioactive events, and were it to create the commission to study the problem and make recommendations, as included in the House bill. We should task the private sector with developing innovative solutions instead of just relying on the government.

Because I feel these elements are so very important, I am cosponsoring a bipartisan bill with my New York colleague Vito Fossella to establish the commission and to provide flexibility in extending coverage for target sites such as Ground Zero.

Though the House bill did much better than this bill, we need to pass what we have before us today and continue to work on the problem together.

Once again, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their help and support to New York City, and I thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for backing this bill and passing TRIA. It is important, and we will continue to work together.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), a valuable member of the committee.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Like many of the previous speakers, I, too, am very disappointed this evening that we did not have an opportunity to bring some real reform to this process. The committee, I think, worked very hard in making sure that we move down the road of transitioning this insurance program back to the private sector, which is where it belongs. Unfortunately, the version that we are considering tonight will not do that.

Another thing that is extremely disappointing, I think, about tonight's version is that, in the event of a catastrophic event, the American taxpayers were going to step up in a gap basis but eventually get all of their money back. In this particular bill, that will not be the case. This is an area where the government, I think, stepped in at an appropriate time to shore up the marketplace, the insurance marketplace; but I think one of the things that is very important is that, as we move forward, while we are going to extend this for a period of 2 years, I think it is important that the committee continue to

work very diligently to make sure that we work towards a process working with the private sector, ensuring that we move and transition in a way that really puts this back into a free marketplace, which is where it belongs.

So I want to thank the chairman for his hard work. I know that he shares in the disappointment that we are not really considering the House version, which is a better version, tonight and which was a more fiscally responsible version.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the infinite risks associated with terrorism demonstrated their potential to destabilize our Nation's markets after the attacks of September 11, which is why I will support the final version of TRIA before the House today. However, I, too, do so with strong reservations and some disappointment in what could have and should have been.

In spite of the tremendous leadership, hard work and cooperative efforts put forth by House Financial Services Committee Chairman MICHAEL OXLEY and Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK, the other body chose to forego a fair and democratic conference process and needlessly tossed away an opportunity to truly strengthen our markets and protect consumers.

I commend Chairman OXLEY, Ranking Member FRANK, Mr. KANJORSKI and Mr. BAKER and all the members and staff, especially, of the Financial Services Committee for producing an initial bill that included a number of critical reforms to help protect Americans and our economy in the event of another terrorist attack.

This initial bill passed by an overwhelming majority here on the House floor and included a number of important consumer protections. As has been discussed, it would have extended the Federal backstop to include group life insurance, thereby ensuring that taxpayer dollars would be used not only to undergird real estate and insurance companies in the event of brick and mortar losses, but it would have provided financial protections to families who suffered the loss of a loved one in the event of another tragedy like September 11.

Moreover, those same taxpayers are being denied the right to travel freely by some of the very insurance companies who sought the extension of TRIA in the first place. The House's bill included a provision that I introduced and passed with the support of my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee during the markup of TRIA to address this unfair practice. While Americans can legally travel without the fear of government standing in our way, some life insurance companies do stand in the way, and they will continue to do so until this Congress acts.

As Americans, one of the liberties we cherish and enjoy is the freedom to ex-

plore and travel legally and freely around the world, be it for recreational, religious or cultural purposes. The unrestrained lawful foreign travel of American citizens is generally considered to be in the best interest of the United States.

Potential future travel to countries, especially our Nation's allies, should not be the sole basis for denying individual life insurance coverage. When we allow this to occur, we give in to terrorists and others who wish to change our way of life. While we should be proud that this provision gleaned broadbased, bipartisan support in the House, it is wrong that the other body refused to conference on the important elements in the House-passed version of TRIA. We cannot stop fighting for American consumers and taxpayers. We must back up our tough talk about fighting terrorism with action.

And, again, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK for working cooperatively together. It is a privilege to serve on a committee that puts as a high priority working together for the greater good.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision Act of 2005.

As one of the original voices calling for an extension of this important Federal backstop, I am pleased we are voting on this bill before today and allowing the TRIA program to continue for an additional 2 years.

And while I support this bill and do so because I recognize the importance of this legislation and its critical need to our economy, especially in major urban areas like New York City, this is not the bill I would have written. The House Committee on Financial Services, under the leadership of Chairman MIKE OXLEY and Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK, produced a strong bipartisan bill; then we responsibly named conferees to hammer out the differences between the Senate- and the House-passed bills.

Unfortunately our colleagues in the Senate, led by Chairman SHELBY, refused to participate in civics class 101, ignoring the House bill and ignoring the important contributions of the House. They ignored major provisions such as the inclusion of group life coverage in this bill so that the Federal TRIA program would cover not only buildings destroyed by terrorists but the people in them as well. The Senate ignored language that would have prohibited the denial of life insurance to Americans who have traveled or even planned to travel to countries that actuaries view as "troublesome," such as Israel or Colombia.

The Senate refused to include language to provide for a real commission to look into a long-term nongovernmental solution to the issues involved in insuring and reinsuring for the threat of terror. And this bill ignores language to provide insurance protections for the rebuilding of the World Trade Center, the actual reason we created this Federal backstop program in the first place.

But while I am not happy about the process and exclusion of important provisions, the underlying need for TRIA to be extended is reason enough for me to vote for this bill, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

I want to thank Chairman OXLEY for his honesty, for all of his hard work on this bill, as well as Congressman STEVE ISRAEL, MIKE CAPUANO and Congressman PAUL KANJORSKI, all who have worked very hard to see this pass. But most importantly, I want to thank Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK, who has pushed for the reauthorization of this program for over a year, has incorporated ideas from both sides of the aisle and has been a true champion in developing and in crafting legislation that helps keep our economy moving.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO).

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I just rise briefly to congratulate the chairman, the ranking member, and the chairman and the ranking member of the subcommittee.

This is a classic piece of legislation that hopefully will never, ever, ever be used. No one, hopefully, will ever know that we actually did this because if they do, it means we will have suffered another terrorist attack. At the same time, it is absolutely necessary.

We have heard of all the details of what is not here, but to me, the most important thing that is not here is the formal mechanism to make sure that we are not stuck in the same position a few years from now. I fear that if we do not get to work in an official way through a commission, that we will be here a few years from now doing this all over again, simply saying we could not get it done and we did not do it right, and that is a travesty to the American people. It is unnecessary, and I will tell the Members that, based on this experience and past experience, particularly with the chairman, he is a man of honor, he is a man of his word, and I know he will be pushing as best he can to get this Congress to pay attention to this issue for the next year so that we will not be placed in this position.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation because of its necessity to America's working men and women and the business community of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to say, and a lot of us have intimated this, we could do better than this that we have before us today. We did better in the House version, and I think all of our committee members know that, and I think most of the Members of the House know that. But there is a time to hold them and a time to fold them.

At this point, I would ask that the House do adopt this conference report.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we are passing this crucial Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) extension, which will provide necessary stability for our Nation's economy in a post 9-11 world. I have strongly supported this legislation from the outset, and I congratulate Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK for their hard work and the excellent product as it passed the House. While I wish more of the House provisions we passed 10 days ago had survived conference, I am pleased that we are able to extend TRIA before the deadline, so that it does not expire in 2 weeks. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important conference report.

A stable, secure insurance market is vital to the health of our national economy. More than 4 years ago, the stability of the insurance industry, and all of our Nation's policyholders, were put in jeopardy when insurers and reinsurers lost more than \$30 billion as a result of the 9/11 attacks. After these substantial losses, insurers were unable to make terrorism insurance available, which left many of our Nation's businesses vulnerable to unacceptable risk.

In response, Congress overwhelmingly passed TRIA to provide a temporary, limited federal backstop in the event of another catastrophic terrorist attack. While we still expect the insurance industry to eventually develop methods for making terrorism insurance available without government support, the market has not yet stabilized to the point where this is possible. Extension of TRIA, which is necessary to prevent the chill of development in our cities, has wide, bipartisan support, and should be enacted promptly.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act. This bill provides key safeguards to stabilize the economy in the event of a terrorist attack while putting us on a path toward restoring a private terrorism risk insurance market.

This legislation will ensure that terrorism insurance coverage is available, providing a degree of certainty in a still uncertain market place.

It is time to make the reforms necessary to encourage the continued development of a market for terrorism risk insurance. A healthy market for terrorism insurance is critical to continued economic growth and expansion. America's taxpayers expect Congress to help that market develop and relieve their burden for assuming much of the risk in the existing TRIA program.

That is what this legislation will do, and I am proud to support it.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from

Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate bill, S. 467.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment to the House amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1900

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 75

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 109-77 is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting the following: "December 31, 2005".

SEC. 2. Section 114(b) of Public Law 109-77 is amended by striking "and December 1, 2005," and inserting "December 1, 2005, and January 1, 2006".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am bringing to the House a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2006. This CR runs through December 31. It is clean without exception. This CR will fund agencies in our last two remaining bills, the Labor-HHS and Defense bills, at the lowest level possible.

When we passed the last CR, my hope was that it would bring a strong motivation for Congress to complete its work in regular order. I want the body to know that the Committee on Appropriations has been strongly committed to bringing to this floor individual conference reports for each and every bill. The committee does not support an omnibus in any form and has done everything in its power to ensure that that did not happen.

The Appropriations Committee passed each bill of the 11 subcommittee bills off the House floor by June 30, the earliest that has been done in some 18 years. The Appropriations Committee has remained committed to moving these bills individually and within the framework of the budget resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the Appropriations Committee has kept its word. I am convinced that moving bills individually is the only way to get us back to regular order. Lacking regular order, there is a tendency for the remaining bills to become "Christmas trees," if you will,